

Minutes
Youth Council Meeting
Georgia Mountains Workforce Development
February 9, 2012 ~ Georgia Mountains Regional Commission Office,
Gainesville, Georgia

The Georgia Mountains Workforce Development Youth Council met on February 9, 2012 at the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission office in Gainesville, Georgia. All those present registered on a sign in sheet.

Attendees:

Brenda Dalin
Chavelia Ruff
Chuck Graham
Joan Hughes
Lee Highsmith
Leanne Matsen
Shelby Ward

Staff

Danielle Avelar
Ebony Tucker
Jessica Williams
John Phillips

Jessica Williams, Youth Services Supervisor called the meeting to order and welcomed attendees.

John Phillips, Workforce Development director began with an introduction of what WIA is. Mr. Phillips stated that the Workforce Investment Act was an organization that began in 1998. The Georgia Mountains Regional Commission became the official grant administrator for the WIA program on October 1, 2011. Mr. Phillips explained that there is a top board of directors that consist of CCEO's from each of our 13 counties, and there is a WIB that also has representation from all of the 13 counties. The WIB sets the policies and the CCEO's approve the policies, for the adult, dislocated worker, youth in-school and youth out-of-school programs. He explained that the youth council's focus would be on the youth in-school and youth out-of-school programs.

Mrs. Williams introduced Danielle Avelar, Youth Services Case Manager. Danielle presented a power point presentation with an overview of the current programs and services youth services currently offer.

- After-School Tutoring Program- youth need to have 4 hours of tutoring and 2 hours of career exploration to earn \$25/wk.
- C.R.P. Credit Recovery program-youth earn \$50/credit earned toward graduation
- Y.E.A.R Year-round Work Experience Program- youth work up to 20 hours after-school and attend monthly Saturday workshops

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- 6 week Summer Employment & Training Program-youth work six weeks during months of June & July, usually transitioning into one of the regular programs
- G.I.D. *Get It Done* GED Program- targets drop-outs and helps them transition into work or tech school
- College & Technical School Program-offers tuition assistance, possible \$18/day that youth attends class, childcare assistance, book and supply assistance

Mrs. Avelar explained that the After-school program & Y.E.A.R. programs are not in all the 13 counties, but we are looking to expand them and offer them in other areas. She explained that youth must be WIA eligible in order to participate. This means they must not only meet income guidelines but they also must have a barrier to employment. She explained the application process that consists of the application, interview and TABE testing. Mrs. Williams added that youth also need to be suitable for our programs now that we are under Common Measures, federal guidelines state all youth participants must obtain a credential, enter employment, or enroll in post-secondary education, and make gains in the areas of literacy and numeracy.

Mrs. Williams asked the group for any questions. Shelby Ward, North GA Tech-ALC, Cornelia asked if eligibility was required for the after-school tutoring, Mrs. Avelar answered yes.

Mrs. Williams asked the group to read over Article II of the Youth Council Constitution and By-Laws. Mrs. Williams stated that the Youth Council is responsible for providing oversight and guidance for youth programs under the guidance of the WIB and in partnership with the CCEO's. The Youth Council will operate and have representation from all of the 13 counties in region 2. Mrs. Williams explained that having all of the counties represented in the council was key in letting the youth staff know what their needs are and help design and implement programs to help resolve those issues.

Mrs. Williams asked the attendees to look over the handout entitled *Responsibilities of Local WIA Youth Council*. She informed the attendees that youth staff would be looking to council members for assistance in obtaining worksites for the summer and year-round programs. Work experiences are offered to youth at no cost to the employer. WIA pays all wages and worker's compensation in hopes of the youth becoming a regular employee. Mrs. Williams informed the group that the Workforce Development's Local Plan is available on the GMRC website, and that the group will be discussing local area's goals in the next meeting.

Mrs. Williams expressed the need to elect the Chairman and Vice Chair of the Youth Council. Joan Hughes, City of Hartwell nominated Clark Willingham, Job Corp, second received by Shelby Ward. All were in favor. Mr. Willingham accepted his position as the Chairman of the Georgia Mountains Workforce Developments Youth Council.

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The nomination for Vice Chairman came from Leanne Matson, GA Mountains YMCA for Chavelia Ruff to be the Vice Chairman. Second was received by Clark Willingham. All were in favor. Ms. Ruff accepted her position as Vice Chairman of the Georgia Mountains Workforce Developments Youth Council.

Mrs. Williams introduced Ebony Tucker, Youth Case Manager. Ms. Tucker provided the group with the progress of the 2012 Summer Youth Employment & Training Program. Youth staff has mailed youth applications to schools, agencies, and community partners with in the 13 counties. The deadline for youth applications is March 16, 2012.

Worksite agreements have been mailed to previous worksites. Deadline for worksite agreements will be February 24, 2012. Ms. Tucker explained that the goal this year to have youth in all 13 counties. The dates of the summer program are June 11th –July 20th, youth will be paid \$8/hour and are allowed 30 hours per week. All youth are assigned summer counselors that will visit them at the worksite each week. They are also required to attend a full day work readiness orientation prior to starting work. Ms. Tucker explained that the youth are at-risk, with barriers to employment and range between the ages of 14-21 and that the youth program must keep the youth and provide services for them year-round until the point of exit. This is because we are not using any special grant funds this summer we are using WIA funds only, therefore we will only be adding around 70 total new participants from region 2 to the active participants already enrolled in services.

Joan Hughes shared with the group her experience with having a youth worker in her office. That youth has now gone on to mortuary school.

Mrs. Williams mentioned the youth event on February 18, 2012 the youth will be traveling with youth staff to attend Stephens Co. Leap for Literacy event.

Shelby Ward mentioned she would like for the youth to participate in the Habersham Duck Durby and L.I.F.T. a program for youth that are at risk for dropping out of school. She will send more information to Mrs. Williams.

Lee Highsmith shared with the group a program that she has called Reality Check that has been a great program that teaches youth the reality of choosing their career and dealing with real life situations. She invited youth staff to see the program in action at the Hall Co. Boys & Girls Club.

Mrs. Williams expressed that she would like the council to keep youth staff informed of events they have coming up so that we can get the youth more involved in the community and get them to meet youth from other areas.

The next meeting date is set for April 26, 2012 at North GA Technical College, Clarkesville Campus.

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Motion to adjourn the meeting was given by Leanne Matson and seconded by Lee Highsmith. All were in favor to adjourn the meeting.

Recorders Signature: Ebony Tucker Date: February 13, 2012